



BRUINTHON 2021

RAISING money, HELPING children

After seven hours of dancing, playing games and constantly standing on their feet, a group of St. Joe students raised \$16,248 for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson.

The amount raised from BruinTHON – now in its 10th year at St. Joe – included money from the 2020 event that was canceled because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Organizers rolled that year's donations into this year's total.

"I was nervous about BruinTHON in the beginning because I didn't know what our event would look like this year," said senior Clay Blanchard, who served as the 2021 BruinTHON student director. "But it ended up working out better than we expected."

To register and participate in the 2021 BruinTHON on Friday, April 23, 2021, students in Grades 7 through 12 had to raise at least \$75. Freshman J.J. Tice raised the most among participants with a total of \$1,000.

Even though the event took place on one day, preparations began at the start of the school year when

students were chosen for the BruinTHON Committee. Blanchard met every Wednesday morning with the committee to discuss and plan the event. The committee tried to incorporate the theme of "Decades" into all the activities and games during BruinTHON.

In the fall and spring semesters, the BruinTHON committee scheduled smaller fund-raisers to generate additional money for Batson Children's Hospital.

Next year, students can expect similar events leading up to the annual BruinTHON fundraiser. Rising senior Zach Shelton will take over leadership of the event.

In the past, the BruinTHON took place in the school gym on a spring semester Friday evening from 4 p.m. to midnight. This year, because of the pandemic, the event took place during school hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"It felt empowering and was an amazing feeling to know I helped so many kids that are the same age as me and are going through things I'll never experience," eighth-grader Molly Moody said.